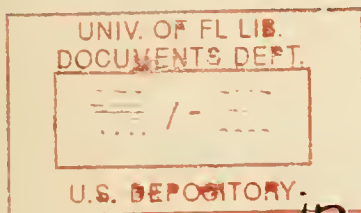


Occupational Therapists Needed Now



For Peace Corps Programs

in Venezuela and The Philippines



The governments of the Philippines in the Far East and Venezuela in Latin America have asked the Peace Corps to send Volunteer occupational therapists to help train host country therapists and assist in launching a program of rehabilitation in the provinces. These programs, which challenge both professional and human skills, are scheduled to enter training in February. Applications for either program should be submitted no later than January 1. Both programs are described in more detail on the following pages.



Patient with Hansen's Disease shells corn with hand sheller. When he leaves the colony, he must farm effectively to live.



Volunteer in Latin America helps a patient make a broom of locally available material.
(Photos by Dan Goldsmith)

VENEZUELA

The government of Venezuela has requested Volunteer occupational therapists to help launch a nation-wide rehabilitation program there. The regional rehabilitation centers to which Volunteers will be assigned have never had occupational therapists and the need is acute.

HISTORY OF THE PROGRAM Venezuela's general rehabilitation program was begun in 1963 with a detailed survey by the Pan American Health Organization. A separate Division of Rehabilitation under the Ministry of Health in Caracas has conducted a program of rehabilitation for physically handicapped children, especially those attacked by infantile paralysis. This hospital has a Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Service which works toward the evaluation and treatment of the physically handicapped.

JOB DESCRIPTION Each Volunteer occupational therapist, along with a physical therapist, will be assigned to a regional rehabilitation center or to a center in Caracas, the capital. In addition to patient care under the direction of the physiatrist, each will participate directly in the training of the rehabilitation aides (orderlies) and the visiting nurses (vocational nurses).

Volunteers assigned to the regional rehabilitation centers will divide their time between the regional center and outlying rural clinics, where they will supervise the training of auxiliary personnel in home rehabilitation procedures as well as participate in the orientation of rural physicians to rehabilitation methods. Those in Caracas will devote part of their time to work in the Hospital Orthopedico. Work will include the rehabilitation of

patients with Hansen's Disease as well as the problems more commonly found in the United States. In summary, occupational therapists will:

1. Evaluate the occupational capacities of handicapped persons.
2. Retrain the handicapped.
3. Train occupational therapy aides.
4. Participate in disability evaluations.
5. Participate in the planning and development of the rehabilitation program as a member of the rehabilitation team.
6. Maintain contact with the Ministries of Labor and Education to coordinate their involvement in this program.

ABOUT VENEZUELA Venezuela is a country somewhat larger than Texas, with a population of over seven million. It is located on the northern coast of South America and enjoys a mild, springlike climate year round with only slight changes in temperature. Venezuela's wealth of petroleum and other resources has produced the highest rate of economic growth and per capita income in Latin America. But the high national income is distributed unevenly and several million persons are living under conditions of extreme poverty.

PHILIPPINES

The occupational therapy program in the Philippines is in its infancy. Volunteers will help to set up programs in hospitals and train professional therapists within these programs.

HISTORY OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IN THE PHILIPPINES The whole concept of therapy, or rehabilitation, is just beginning to assume significance corresponding to the industrial and economic development of the country. There is currently a minimal number of trained occupational therapists, who are concentrated in the University of the Philippines School of Allied Medical Professions attempting to set up a teaching program to staff hospitals

around the country. The World Health Organization has assigned a full-time consultant who is working on the development of the University curriculum leading to a standard certification and the establishment of small centers providing minimum occupational therapy services. The School of Allied Medical Professions at the University of the Philippines was founded in 1962 and is the only school of its kind in the Western Pacific area to offer a baccalaureate course in occupational therapy.

VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION The University of the Philippines is making a great effort to establish programs which will make available trained professional therapists who can provide the various services needed at the major hospitals. Volunteer occupational therapists will set up and run occupational therapists programs in different hospitals in Manila. Professional students in their fourth year of school (the first three are spent studying basic and specific courses) will spend a ten month internship at the clinical centers where they will benefit from the expert and full-time supervision of the Volunteer. Volunteers will also take part in the teaching program at the University.



Using stone grinding mill, one of the patients makes aji, a hot pepper sauce, for the hospital kitchen.

In summary, Volunteers will:

1. Assist in the development of the clinical training centers in Manila and suburbs.
2. Supervise occupational therapy interns in hospitals.
3. Assist in other phases of the University training program.
4. Help to promote the profession of occupational therapy in the Philippines.

ABOUT THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS The Philippines is a group of islands between the South China Sea and the Pacific Ocean. The population is over thirty million, and there are three official languages - Spanish, Tagalog, and English. The climate is tropical and except in the higher mountains, temperatures remain warm throughout the year. There is a great variety of food because of the diverse groups of people on the islands, and generous opportunity for sports, because of the island nature of the country and the weather.

TRAINING All Peace Corps training programs last about three months, during which time Volunteers study the language, customs, culture, and history of the country where they will serve.

Those occupational therapists going to Venezuela will learn how to best effect rehabilitation in that Latin American country. Those going to the Philippines will similarly learn to apply therapeutic concepts in a Philippino setting. Each group will have a short period of in-country orientation before beginning work. All Volunteers, during training will have courses in American studies, world affairs and physical conditioning.

HOW TO APPLY Persons interested in either of the above programs should submit their completed Volunteer Questionnaire (application) before January 15. Questionnaires are available from all Post Offices and from the Medical Skills Desk, Office of Public Affairs, Peace Corps, Washington, D. C. 20525

ALSO NEEDED FOR REHABILITATION PROGRAMS IN VENEZUELA AND THE PHILIPPINES

Speech Therapists
Brace Makers
Physical Therapists

Medical Skills Desk
Office of Public Affairs
PEACE CORPS
Washington, D. C. 20525

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



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